

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

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R 231653Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4068

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS MADRID 8992

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP

SUBJ: KING'S PARDON AFFECTS 5,655 PRISONERS INCLUDING
429 POLITICAL PRISONERS

REF : MADRID 8820

1. THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT

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AS OF DEC 14, 1975, 5,655 PRISONERS, INCLUDING 429 POLITICAL

PRISONERS, HAD BEEN RELEASED UNDER THE KING'S PARDON SIGNED NOV 25 (REFTEL). FOR THE FIRST TIME THE MINISTRY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AS OF NOV 25 THERE WERE 1,176 PEOPLE DETAINED FOR THEIR POLITICAL CONVICTIONS (OTHERS ALLEGE MORE.) THERE WAS MUCH SUBSEQUENT PUBLICITY OVER THE RELEASE DEC 18 OF A POLITICAL PRISONER WHO HAD THE LONGEST TERM OF ANY POLITICAL PRISONER, I.E., IMPRISONMENT SINCE OCTOBER 1947. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR ORDERED LOCAL CIVIL GOVERNORS DEC 18 TO TAKE ACTION WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTIONS TO RELEASE PRISONERS AND REMOVE FINES FOR MISDEMEANORS AND OTHER CRIMES IN THE SPIRIT OF THE KING'S PARDON.

2. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES OF THE KING'S PARDON HAS CONTINUED TO RISE -- TO THE POINT WHERE THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SAID THERE WERE ONLY 9,886 PEOPLE IMPRISONED IN SPAIN AS OF DECEMBER 14, 1975, THE PRESSURE FOR AMNESTY OR PARDON WHICH WOULD AFFECT ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS HAS INCREASED. THE SPANISH EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE WHICH ENDED A NATIONAL MEETING DEC 19 URGED THAT THE PARDON BE EXTENDED. OTHER CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS (CARITAS) HAVE JOINED IN THE CHORUS. THE GOVT-APPOINTED RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA AND 500 PROFESSORS OF MADRID'S THREE UNIVERSITIES HAVE ADDED THEIR VOICES. ALL OF THE OPPOSITION POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO URGED THE SAME THING. THIS PRESSURE IS UNLIKELY TO ABATE UNTIL THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER PARDON.
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